

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections that are contained in the Office Action of April 17, 2008 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 12-21 were allowed, and that claim 23 would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, without acquiescing to the Examiner's positions regarding the applicability of the prior to the rejected claims, claims 22 and 27-31 have been cancelled and claim 23 has been rewritten into independent form, with claims 24-26 remaining dependent upon claim 23. Accordingly, all claims should now be in condition for allowance, and indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuma SUGAHARA et al.

/Nils E. Pedersen/

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